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## HAIFA BLANKETED BY PALL OF SMOKE

### Heavy Losses In Burning Of Shell Oil Tanks

#### Fire Expected To Last For Days

London, Mar. 31. The Stern Gang sabotaged the Shell Oil pipelines at Haifa with three explosions before dawn today, touching off the biggest fire the area has ever known. The fire brigade, assisted by police and military, worked to bring the blaze under control. At 11 a.m. twelve oil storage tanks were burning and a number of buildings on the Shell depot damaged. Damage caused was estimated at \$4,000,000.

It was believed that a number of casualties occurred but early reports gave no details. The Stern Gang distributed pamphlets in Haifa claiming full responsibility for the sabotage.

At dawn, a huge pall of black smoke still blanketed the town as weary firemen fought to control the blaze. Twelve oil storage tanks, containing many hundred thousand gallons of fuel set alight by an explosion, were still blazing more than seven hours later and smoke was mushrooming hundreds of feet into the air, darkening the sky over Haifa.

The first two of three explosions were reported to have cut the pipeline leading to the Shell Company's plant while the third ignited the tanks. No casualties have been reported so far.

It was later officially stated that eight oil storage tanks were set on fire and completely destroyed, while four others were damaged. Only three tanks are now standing in the plant.

**Continuing For Days?**  
An unofficial estimate of the damage caused was \$4,000,000 according to an announcement by the Palestine Government Public Information Office.

Preliminary investigations into the huge fire confirm the theory that one explosive charge was planted under the pipeline leading to the storage tanks and the second was thrown over the barbed-wire perimeter close to the largest storage tank.

The pipelines burst into flames simultaneously when the charges exploded.

The curfew imposed on the Jewish quarters in Haifa was lifted shortly before noon.

The fire was still blazing strongly at 1 a.m. and it appeared it might continue for several days. Desperate efforts are being made to isolate the fire and to prevent it from spreading.

**A Diversion**  
Other tanks and installations are being set down constantly with sea water in the hope they could be saved.

One Arab fireman was burned about the body and the job of firefighting was made more difficult through the destruction of two water pumps in the fire.

The explosions apparently were part of a diversionary campaign in an effort to create an opportunity for illegal immigrants on board the "Moledeh" to escape from their British detainers.

Haifa port, shrouded by dense oil smoke, was heavily guarded in anticipation of the "Moledeh's" arrival. No one was allowed to leave or enter the Army was expected to early

out searches of Mount Carmel area later today as a precaution against the underground.

The first group of refugees from the "Moledeh" arrived at Haifa before dawn aboard a Royal Navy destroyer almost simultaneously with the pipeline explosions. Another destroyer with 600 immigrants was en route.

**Fight With Troops**  
British troops used tear gas to quell resistance from the 300 immigrants, who refused to be transhipped from the "Moledeh" which it docked.

The "Moledeh" was towed in by a British mine-sweeper. The immigrants fought off all attempts by the troops to board the ship from the dockside but when tear gas and smoke bombs burst amid the crammed decks of this 70-year-old hulk, the immigrants gave up the fight.

The ferry ships "Empire Rival" and "Ocean Vigor," carrying between them 1,600 illegal immigrants from the "Moledeh" left later for Cyprus.

After British troops had quelled the resistance on board the "Moledeh," the Jews were brought ashore. Some burst into song and others started to dance. There were no further incidents and the immigrants embarked quietly on ships, many of them pointing ex-

#### MADAGASCAR ATTACK

Paris, Mar. 31.

The French military camp at Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar, was attacked last night by a band of several hundred men, armed with heavy jungle knives and spears. The French news agency reported from Madagascar today.

The dispatch said that about 20 people were killed of whom eight were Europeans. Military reinforcements are being sent to the scene.—Reuter.

#### Brum Mayor On Goodwill Jaunt

Birmingham, Mar. 31.

The Mayor of Birmingham, Alderman A.E. Bradbury, spent Sunday in a German prisoner of war camp at New Birmingham in preparation for his forthcoming goodwill visit to Cologne.

He met 16 prisoners whose homes are in Cologne and received a scroll of greeting, made by the men in the camp, which said, "May this visit be a hopeful sign of understanding and peace among the people and the beginning of a new era." It will be handed to the Burgomaster of Cologne, Bradbury said.

He told the Germans that the people of Birmingham were hoping to link the townspeople there with their opposite numbers in Cologne and added, "In years to come I hope that many British people will establish personal friendships with Germans and remove forever the fear of war."—Associated Press.

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#### Germans Partly To Blame For Crisis

Dusseldorf, Mar. 30.

Prominent British and German spokesmen said tonight that the Germans themselves were partly to blame for the food crisis from which the Ruhr industrial belt has not yet emerged. Dr. Kurt Schumacher, leader of the German Social Democratic Party, told an Oberhausen election audience: "The British are not alone to blame—the Germans must accept some responsibility."

Mr. William Ashbury, Regional Commissioner for North Rhine-Westphalia told Reuter that the worst effects could have been minimised if the Germans had applied "a little more intelligence" in the allocation of coal supplies.

The Ruhr was quiet today and "favourable progress" was officially reported in the current programme to move 6,000 tons of grain a day from Hamburg to the Ruhr.

Senior British officials said there had been no general breakdown but a "temporary local failure of distribution."

**Hooligans.**  
There has been no rioting during the week's demonstrations in which more than 250,000 Germans have taken part and the only disorderly incidents are attributed by the British and German sources to hooligans of a type who attach themselves to any crowd.

The Left Wing parties did not inspire the demonstrations but exercised a wide moderating influence while the trade unions provided "the safety valve," according to Dr. Rudolf Amelunck, Minister Resident in North-Rhine-Westphalia. It is expected, however, that there will be a big demonstration in Cologne, the great Rhineland city that suffered some of the Royal Air Force's heaviest wartime bombing.

Details of the demonstration were not known last night nor was it known if it was to be accompanied by strikes as in the other British zone cities.

The husband had asked for a divorce on the ground of desertion.

At the conclusion of Lady Robinson's evidence in chief on Friday, in which she denied the charge, Collin Duncan, Sir Arnold's counsel, was allowed to postpone his cross-examination of her as he wished to consult the husband.

Today, Mr. Duncan said that Sir Arnold's instructions to him were that he was not to challenge in any way the evidence his wife had given.

"In those circumstances," said counsel, "he asks you to dismiss the petition."

Justice Hodson dismissed the petition with costs, adding that he thought the husband had been well advised to take the course he had.

The marriage took place at Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States, in 1910.—Reuter.

**Steamer Hits Mine**  
Terschelling, Mar. 30.

A Norwegian steamer described as the "Titan" (9,000 tons) struck a mine while sailing in ballast 40 miles west of the Dutch North Sea Island of Texel today.

The crew of 30 who abandoned ship, were taken off by a Dutch fishing vessel, and as far as was known tonight all are safe.

Three tugs from Terschelling and Maasvlakte have gone to help the "Titan," which dropped anchor.

The only "Titan" listed in Lloyd's current shipping register is a 4,880-ton vessel registered at Bergen, Norway.—Reuter.

**Copenhagen, Mar. 30.**  
The Faroes Parliament, which adjourned today after a four-month session, has nominated a commission, including seven members of the three Faroes parties, for negotiation with the Danish Government on the future of the Faroes. The Commission, headed by the party leader, A. Samuelsen, P.M. Dam and Thorstein, Petersen, will leave for Copenhagen at the end of April.—Reuter.

**THE WEATHER**  
A moderate anticyclone is stationary over Japan with a wide belt of high pressure extending SW to Formosa. Another anticyclone is developing steadily over Western Mongolia. A trough of low pressure is stationary over Central and SW China.

Today's forecast for Hong Kong: mainly cloudy with morning mist; rather warm.

Tomorrow's weather: Maximum: 24°C, Minimum: 18°C. Wind: S.W. 10-15 mph. Rainfall: 0.1 inch. Fog: 0.1 inch. Clouds: 1-2.

Monday's weather: Maximum: 24°C, Minimum: 18°C. Wind: S.W. 10-15 mph. Rainfall: 0.1 inch. Fog: 0.1 inch. Clouds: 1-2.

Tuesday's weather: Maximum: 24°C, Minimum: 18°C. Wind: S.W. 10-15 mph. Rainfall: 0.1 inch. Fog: 0.1 inch. Clouds: 1-2.

Wednesday's weather: Maximum: 24°C, Minimum: 18°C. Wind: S.W. 10-15 mph. Rainfall: 0.1 inch. Fog: 0.1 inch. Clouds: 1-2.

#### H.K. PLEASE NOTE

Gibraltar, Mar. 30.  
Gibraltar, British Crown Colony with a population of 20,000, may soon have a State lottery, it was learned from a reliable source here today.—Reuter.

#### Britain's Birth Rate Soaring

London, Mar. 30.

The population of England and Wales has ceased to dwindle. For the first time in 24 years, the number of babies born exceeds the "replacement level."

Figures are given in the return of the Registrar-General for the final quarter of last year to be published tomorrow. In that quarter 221,891 babies were born, representing a birth rate of 20.5 per thousand of the total population.

This is the highest rate recorded for any December quarter since 1921. For the same quarter of 1945, the rate was 15.3. In 1940 it was 13.0.

The birthrate for the whole of 1946 was 19.1 per thousand, the highest since 1923 and 4.4 per thousand higher than in 1938.

From 1938, the birth rate fell steadily to 14.1 in 1941. There was then an upward curve in the next three years, a drop of 1.4 in 1946 and then a jump of 3.0 per thousand in the population last year.—Reuter.

**Divorce Petition Dropped**  
London, Mar. 31.

Sir Arnold Percy Robinson, of Dene House, Bingley near Andover, retired solicitor formerly of Singapore, did not proceed with his petition in the Divorce Court today after he and his wife, Lady (Eversley Channing) Robinson, of King's Court, Chelsea, had given evidence.

The husband had asked for a divorce on the ground of desertion.

At the conclusion of Lady Robinson's evidence in chief on Friday, in which she denied the charge, Collin Duncan, Sir Arnold's counsel, was allowed to postpone his cross-examination of her as he wished to consult the husband.

Today, Mr. Duncan said that Sir Arnold's instructions to him were that he was not to challenge in any way the evidence his wife had given.

"In those circumstances," said counsel, "he asks you to dismiss the petition."

Justice Hodson dismissed the petition with costs, adding that he thought the husband had been well advised to take the course he had.

The marriage took place at Kuala Lumpur, Federated Malay States, in 1910.—Reuter.

**De Gaulle Appeals For Unity**  
Paris, Mar. 30.

Breaking six months' silence, General de Gaulle told the French people today that the voice of dissension, which meant decadence, had been allowed to obscure national interests.

He was speaking on the hill above the beach at Bruneval, 12 miles north of Havre, where on the night of Feb. 28, 1942, a British and Canadian Commando raid took place to destroy German radio location apparatus after French Resistance groups had provided the Allies with plans of the district.

Appealing for French unity and Anglo-French cooperation in a world which was becoming "increasingly hard," he declared that France today had lost her spirit of unity, which the French Resistance groups had shown in the Bruneval operation.

He said that he looked forward to the day when France would "reform the battered ranks of the country."

**"Noble England"**  
There were loud cheers when General de Gaulle spoke of "Noble England" and shouts of "De Gaulle in power" marked the end of his speech.

Appealing for French unity, General de Gaulle said: "The day will come when in their entire masses the French people will fling away these unprofitable games and reform the battered ranks of the country."

Strengthening the part played by the Bruneval expedition, he said: "The Bruneval operation showed for the first time that the French system of information, which was built up in the midst of the enemy, could one day be used by relieving forces from overseas."

The ceremony was held up for nearly two hours because the car taking the British Ambassador, Mr. Duff Cooper, to Bruneval broke down.—Reuter.

## Canton-Hongkong Co-Operation Chamber Of Commerce Statement On Trade

Canton, Mar. 31.

Desire for very close Canton-Hong Kong co-operation for the furtherance of trade was expressed by Mr. Ho Teap-ting, chairman of the Canton Chamber of Commerce, in an interview with Associated Press yesterday, following his recent goodwill mission to the British Colony.

"I am much impressed by the sincerity and earnestness of Hong Kong merchants in promoting trade with Canton," said Mr. Ho. "Our goodwill mission representing the Chamber of Commerce was given a very sincere welcome in Hong Kong."

"We have arranged hereafter to exchange trade information once a month with Hong Kong. People there are very much in need of knowing conditions here. On our part we are favourably impressed by the inspection of many territories in Hong Kong and their variety of output."

**Trade Restrictious.**  
Mr. Ho said he was not much worried by trade restrictions on exports and imports as imposed by the National Government as they are only temporary measures and will be cancelled when the trade situation is improved. He added that commodity prices in Canton had dropped almost to the level before the "good rush" crisis of Feb. 11.

Mr. Francis C. Y. Wu, deputy manager of the Kwangtung Industrial Corporation, who was a member of the mission to

**Volunteers Man Ship's Engines**  
Liverpool, Mar. 30.

When the liner Sarpodon arrived here today from the Far East, it was learnt that European volunteers stoked the boilers for 21 days after a strike among 50 Chinese members of the crew.

The volunteers, mainly drawn from the catering staff, worked in the engine room from Sydney, Australia, to Singapore, a voyage that took 21 days instead of the normal 14.

The Chinese, who struck work at Sydney, were gaoled for desertion. Other seamen and firemen were signed on at Singapore to complete the trip to England.—Reuter.

**Vatican City, Mar. 30.**  
The Pope today received the traditional palm furnished to the Vatican by the Bresca Family of San Remo since the 16th Century. The Campaldolense nuns of the Convent of Santa Prisca on the Aventine Hill presented a palm to the Pope yesterday.—United Press.

## Washington Talks On Another Loan To China

Washington, Mar. 30.  
It was learned that State Department and Export and Import Bank officials have reopened their discussions on the question of a \$500,000,000 loan to China.

Officials of both agencies questioned by the United Press emphasized that no plan is yet under way to grant the loan. They said the talks were informal with neither agency offering any specific proposals.

However, Export Import Bank sources reported that at the request of the State Department conferences were initiated after a lapse of many months.

This is viewed as significant as the State Department some time ago halted the Bank's plan to negotiate a loan with Chiang's government.

The State Department's earlier stand carried out President Truman's statements of December 15, 1946, that United States financial assistance for China would depend on its progress toward peace and unity.

**Some Optimism**  
Recent military and political events in China have apparently given rise to some optimism that the Chinese Nationalist Government is making progress toward complying with the United States policy as outlined by the President.

Among the more important of such developments are:

1. The capture of Yenan by the Nationalists and Government promises that a more vigorous offensive will be carried out this spring against the Communists.

2. Dissolution of the Kuomintang Supreme Council and subsequent creation of the State Council to permit other parties to become members.

3. Reorganization of the Chinese constitution along more democratic lines.—United Press.

**Gandhi Visits Mountbatten**  
New Delhi, Mar. 31.

In shawl, loincloth and sandals, tiny Mohandas K. Gandhi today met regal, uniformed and debonair Viscount Mountbatten to talk of the future of mammoth India.

The meeting between the pair—one the symbol of India's modern nationalism and the other probably the last symbol of the British Crown to rule this land—was a simple one.

Gandhi was driven to the vice-regal estate and entered alone, leaning on his familiar staff, slowly because he is 78 and very frail and stooped.

Gandhi proceeded to the English style vice-regal gardens and there met Viscount Mountbatten and his Viscountess. They chatted amiably. Then they went into the vice-regal house. Gandhi, leaning on his staff, was seen by the press.

#### MURDER IN A STORM

Milan, Mar. 31.

Count Giovanni Feltrini, 40, was found shot to death in his villa here today.

The police believed the murder occurred during a violent storm last night when the sound of the shots was drowned out by the wind. They said no motive has been discovered and no robbery occurred.—United Press.

#### Gambling On H.K.-Bound Ship

Aboard as General Gordon, Mar. 31.

Reports published in the United States that this is the "world's largest gambling ship" drew a denial from Captain Henry Nelson, but he added he is cracking down on gambling aboard.

"I believe a clique of gamblers are aboard and I am putting my foot down on them," he said. Crew members found gambling will be punished and money confiscated.

The captain's edict has been repeatedly broadcast over the ship's address system as the ship steams toward the Orient.

(Reports reaching the United States said some 900 Chinese were aboard the Gordon and gambling was rife with an estimated \$1,000,000 in cash available for games.)

Chinese gamblers from Vancouver and British Columbia were said to be in charge of the games.

The American President Line owners and operators of the Gordon, said it had the information on gambling aboard the ship.

—Herald Tribune, New York.

#### ON OTHER PAGES

Page Two: Kellogg Street Case. Commander, Ryder, Leaving. V.A.D. Quarters Burglary.

Page Three: Chinese Entertainment Meeting. Police Report. Homecoming. Traffic.

#### School Age Raised

London, Mar. 31.

An extra year of compulsory schooling for British children starts tomorrow as the law raising the school leaving age from 14 to 15 becomes effective.

A spokesman from the Ministry of Education said no additional load will actually fall upon the schools until next September.

When the autumn term starts, he said, about 180,000 14-year-olds who otherwise would be permitted to leave school will return to classes.

The Ministry conceded that the additional school year will be a serious strain on Government in view of the current shortage of teachers and books.

School buildings—United Press.

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## Murder Case At Sessions

Hearing of the case in which Cheuk Chau, Cheung Kee Cheong, Lau Mun, Li Yau, Mak Kau alias Mak Kam Shing and Chan Yui Shu alias Ho Lau Chiu, who are charged with the murder of Hui Chi and Hui Hung and with the attempted murder of Chan Tak Hing in Deep Bay on Oct. 12, last, started before His Lordship Mr. Justice Williams (Puisne Judge) at the Criminal Sessions yesterday.

Mr. A. J. Clifford appeared for the Crown. The first accused was represented by Mr. Y. H. Pun, instructed by Mr. A. S. C. Comer of Messrs. Hastings & Company. The other five accused were represented by Mr. Hui Shing-Lu, instructed by Mr. C. A. S. Russ.

The case for the Crown is that between 8 and 9 p.m. on Oct. 12, at Lau Fau Shan Village on the British shore of Deep Bay, Hui Chi, Hui Hung and Chan Tak Hing were seized and bound by a gang of seven or eight men. They were put in a rowing boat and taken to a part of Deep Bay roughly between the British and Chinese shores.

The anchor was dropped, the three victims shot and their bodies thrown overboard. Of the three victims, two died and the third succeeding in reaching land after an amazing feat of endurance — he swam in the water for almost four hours, although his hands were tied behind his back and he was badly wounded.

After receiving assistance from villagers, he reported to the Pingshan Police Station, as a result of which the accused were subsequently arrested.

After testimony by Crown witnesses, hearing was adjourned till 10 a.m. today.

## NABCATCHER IN NEW GUISE

The Admiralty have given directions that the Naval Air Section at Kai Tak, hitherto known as H.M.S. "Nabcatcher," is to be renamed H.M.S. "Flycatcher." The change will take place today.

H.M.S. "Nabcatcher" was originally part of the wartime Mobile Naval Air Base organization, the units of which bore names having the initial letters NAB. As this organization has now been disbanded, the name is no longer applicable.

"Flycatcher" has been selected as the new name in view of the fact that the first type of naval aircraft ever to land at Kai Tak was a Fairey "Flycatcher."

# KNIGHT STREET CASE

## Cross-Examination Of Plaintiff

"Ten thousand dollars is not very much to me," said Mrs. Kathleen Wong Choy in reply to a question put to her by Sir Henry Blackall, C. J. in the course of her cross-examination yesterday, when hearing was resumed of the case in which the ownership of 4 Knight Street is being contested.

Mrs. Kathleen Wong Choy, plaintiff, is represented by the Hon. Mr. Leo d'Almeida e Castro instructed by Mr. W. C. Hing of Messrs. Deacons. Mr. C. E. Loseby, instructed by Mr. M. A. da Silva, is appearing for Mrs. Bertha Kurtz Pears, the defendant.

Answering further questions under cross-examination, Mrs. Wong said that apart from the document of Jan. 20, 1942, which she gave to Dr. Ho authorizing him to look after her property, she signed no other document of authorization to anybody else.

Mrs. Wong said that she had a current account with the National City Bank of New York, but at the time she left Hong Kong, the Japanese authorities did not permit any withdrawals.

Mrs. Wong denied that she came back to Hong Kong from Macao in February or March to attend to some pressing business.

She had jewellery and title deeds in two safe deposit boxes at the Bank of East Asia. This jewellery was in addition to that which she wore.

Mrs. Wong said that she always had ready cash at home, sometimes as much as \$10,000. When it was pointed out to Mrs. Wong by Sir Henry that \$10,000 was a large amount to keep at home, Mrs. Wong replied that \$10,000 was not very much to her. The money was kept in a steel safe.

She knew that the Japanese called in all U.S. Currency and that it was dangerous to use this money.

Mrs. Wong agreed that at the time cash was more important than property. She knew that when she reached Kwongchowwan or "Free China" she would receive funds.

### Not True

It would not be true to say that she needed cash to get away from Hong Kong as quickly as possible. She never thought of leaving one or two of her houses nor did she offer to sell two houses for \$60,000.

Mrs. Wong denied that Mrs. Pears helped her out of a great difficulty. Mrs. Wong also denied having obtained \$20,000 from Mrs. Pears or that she had decided to support Dr. Ho in a story which was false.

When Dr. Ho visited her in Macao, he also brought cash in Hong Kong Currency, including drafts in U.S. Currency. Mrs. Wong said that she kept money at home and in her

## Coming Events

April 1—Rotary Club luncheon; Speaker: Compton MacKenzie.  
April 2—K.C.C. Dance.  
April 3 and 7—Easter Race Meeting.  
April 11—Watsonian Club dinner (tentative date).  
April 11 and 12—K.C.C. Play: "A Worm's Eye View."  
April 12—China Light & Power Co. Ltd., annual meeting, noon.  
April 21—H.K. Land Investment & Agency Ltd., shareholders' meeting, noon.

she had a conversation with Mrs. Wong, in the course of which the latter said that she could not be able to leave for Macao until the following Monday, as she was assisting at a Y.W.C.A. charity bazaar.

Mrs. Au said she left Hong Kong because she believed war to be imminent.

Replying to Mr. Loseby, Mrs. Au said she believed war to be imminent by reason of the fact that on Tuesday the doors of the Police Station were half closed. She therefore decided to leave Hong Kong.

Lim Tih-tung Kwai, retired sugar merchant, said that he had been housed at 244 Prince Edward Road since the beginning of 1943. He knew Mrs. Wong as a neighbour, but never spoke to her. He only knew Dr. Ho Che Wing, who later had moved to 246 Prince Edward Road. The latter introduced himself.

Lim said that in January 1942, he went to Waterloo Road, where he saw Mrs. Wong. She said that she wanted to go to Macao and wished to give a letter of authorization to Dr. Ho to manage her affairs and to register them. Lim said that he signed this letter of authorization as witness.

### Credit Foncier Manager

G. M. Davreux, manager of the Credit Foncier, said that his Company were agents for Mrs. Wong and her husband. All the houses entered in the list produced in Court were built for Mrs. Wong over a period of four years on land formerly owned by his Company but later sold to Mrs. Wong.

Mr. Davreux said that the value of 4 Knight Street, as it stood including land, was between \$40,000 to \$45,000 in 1941. A conservative estimate of the nine houses was \$345,000. Mr. Davreux said that the value of the houses today was easily a million dollars, with occupation mortgages and no "ice money."

Dr. Ho Che Wing, Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, Edinburgh, said that he was asked by Mrs. Wong to stay at 246 Prince Edward Road to prevent the premises being looted or occupied by the Japanese.

Dr. Ho said that after Mrs. Wong went to Macao, he saw her there in the beginning of May 1942.

Prior to her departure for Macao, Mrs. Wong executed a letter of authority in his favour to manage her houses and to alter the registration thereof. Dr. Ho said that the letter of authority did not empower him to sell or mortgage any of the houses.

Dr. Ho said that it was mentioned in the Chinese press that all properties had to be registered in order to secure their release from Army control. Dr. Ho said that the letter of authority authorized him to collect rent.

Dr. Ho denied that he called on Mrs. Pears in February 1942 and introduced himself as Mr. Wong. He first called in October 1942, when he called at 4 Knight Street, for the first time, to collect rent.

Dr. Ho said that on Aug. 31, 1942, he made nine separate applications to the Japanese for registration of Mrs. Wong's houses.

Dr. Ho denied having offered 2 and 4 Knight Street to Mrs. Pears in February 1942. Dr. Ho said that Mrs. Pears' evidence that he had later called on her with a receipt for \$20,000 was false and that Mrs. Wong was a "made up story."

Dr. Ho said that he first learnt about Mrs. Pears' claim to the house when he visited her in October 1942 and asked for the receipt. On that occasion she said she had bought the house from a Mrs. Wong for \$20,000. Dr. Ho said that he was most surprised when Mrs. Pears made this claim. He asked her to produce evidence to support her claim, but she said she lost her receipt.

Hearing was then adjourned till 10 a.m. today.

## DEBATE AT TOC H

At the meeting of ToC H this evening there will be a debate and the motion is "That this House is of the opinion that Class-Difficulties should be eliminated." The speakers, for and against the motion, will be Mr. Davies and Mr. Spencer Dunkley.

One of the aims of ToC H is to get out in its Royal Charter is to "mitigate by mind, word and deed the evils of class-difficulties, and to create a body of public opinion free of all social distinctions."

The ToC H meeting is held at 10, House, 60, Macdonnell Road, Hong Kong, and will commence at eight o'clock. The debate is extended to all who are interested.

## A Friendly Game?

Wong Luk, 44, and twenty-six other Chinese were having a "friendly game" of *pu-kai* in the rear room of the ground floor at 6 Lai Chi Kok Road on Sunday when they were disturbed by Sub-Inspector Blackbourn, and bundled off to the Mong Kok Police Station.

Charged before Mr. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon yesterday with keeping a common gaming house, Wong denied the charge and said they were just having a friendly game. Inspector J. Oram, convinced His Worship

the contrary by bringing to light the fact that Wong was the "banker," and that he resided at 42 Lai Chi Kok Road. Wong was fined \$400, and the 19 gamblers who appeared in Court \$15. The seven absentees had their bail of \$25 each exonerated. The \$201.40 table-money seized was ordered to be confiscated to the Poor Box.

## Readers' Letters

### Income Tax

Sir,—I was flabbergasted to read that an association has been formed in Hongkong to oppose the proposed Income Tax in the Colony; the effort of these people takes a lot of beating. They make a point of demanding that the views of the people should be heard before a decision is made.

Let us begin by supposing that some of the members of the new association are men who stayed on in Hongkong during the Japanese occupation; that some have found conditions in other places so difficult that they have sought for and found a colony where the administration maintains such law and order that they can go about their business free from molestation. Some of those who stayed here under the Japanese probably made money (and would they have dared to form an association then?) some of those who stayed elsewhere by manipulating the Hongkong dollar, thereby helping the Japanese war effort (and would those who have come from China dared form associations there?)

When Hongkong became British again, these and many others flocked to this Colony. Let us not forget those who sold 30 cent packets of cigarettes for \$2 and even \$3, etc., etc. Let us not forget those who have battered on the rent racket. Let us not forget those who have been directly responsible for the keeping up of prices. Let us not forget those who are responsible for the corruption referred to in the speeches of our learned unofficiaries. It is a pity that Income Tax was not enforced when the British retook Hongkong; a great many irregularities might have been obtained.

I am beginning to feel that it is not reluctance to pay taxes which motivates the Anti-Tax Association, but fear of disclosure of irregularities. If the Tax, therefore, does nothing more than help to keep down irregularities then it will have achieved something worth while.

And then, perhaps, we will have less of this scrambling and rushing for money. Then, perhaps, we may get a little of the old quiet and contentment which prevailed in Hongkong once upon a time.

And if the poor, those living on the verge of destitution, and those many others who are struggling so hard to make ends meet, who form the great majority of the population of Hongkong, are asked for their views on this important subject of Income Tax they will declare, by an overwhelming majority, that they are in entire accord with the proposal.

As for those who are not satisfied to pay their just share, out of the profits which they are making in Hongkong, so that the social amenities of this place may be maintained; why, I would then suggest that they go elsewhere to some other place, say to Japan and their Japanese friends, or wherever they can pile up their fortunes without the necessity of paying this Tax.

OLD TIMER

Sir,—Back to life again, I must congratulate several of our official members in the Legislative Council, notably especially Dr. S. N. Chau and Mr. Leo d'Almeida for the manner in which they are endeavouring to "stay Government" in the running of the Income Tax Law as a "fait accompli."

There is very little I can usefully add to what has already been said, but I would like to mention that the Public at large

## Stanley Jap. Medico On Trial

At No. 7 War Crimes Court this morning the War Crimes Trial of Lieutenant Sato Choichi will open.

He is accused of committing a war crime in Hong Kong, between October 1932 and August, 1945 when he was Medical Officer in charge of Stanley Gao Hospital and, as such, was responsible for the well-being of British and Chinese prisoners who were patients.

The charge alleges that in violation of the laws and usages of war he was concerned in the ill-treatment of the prisoners by failing to provide them with adequate medical attention, including medicine, drugs and suitable diet, thereby contributing to the deaths of many of them and causing physical suffering to others.

The President of the Court will be Lt. Colonel N. C. Wait.

## Commander Ryder Leaving To-Day

Comdr. A. S. D. Ryder, Hong Kong's popular Deputy Harbour Master and Marine Magistrate, took his last case in the Marine Court yesterday when he administered a caution to two enterprising junkmen who brought a cargo of livestock from Kwongchowwan to the Colony when they held no certificates of competency to operate the junk. Today, HMS "Opossum" will be taking the Commander and Mrs. Ryder to the island of Formosa, where he will take up his new post as Vice-Consul.

Comdr. Ryder is no stranger to Hong Kong or the Far East, for he was here for 2½ years when HMS "Medway," the submarine depot ship to which he was attached, was based here.

After that he was transferred to Shanghai to act as naval staff officer, attached to H.M. Consulate General, where his duties consisted of intelligence work. He had been in the northern port for three years when the European War broke out and he was transferred home for duty.

During the war Comdr. Ryder's work with the Navy was principally connected with sea defence. He was first at Dover; and from there he was transferred to the Admiralty, where he acted as Naval adviser to the Turkish Government, attached to the British Embassy at Ankara.

Upon the formation of the Admiralty Lord Louis Mountbatten, Comdr. Ryder was appointed to his staff as representative of Naval Intelligence, and placed in charge of the operational intelligence section.

This post he held until the Japanese surrender in August 1945, when he retired from the Royal Navy and joined the Colonial Office for duty in civil affairs with the Military Administration in Hong Kong.

High Ability

He was flown out to Hong Kong, arriving on Sept. 23, 1945. He took up the post of Harbour Master at a time when everything was in a jumble, but under his able administration and guidance order was soon restored.

When Mr. J. Jolly, the pre-war Harbour Master, returned to the Colony, he took over a Harbour Department functioning with more than pre-war efficiency. Though he has always been a Navy man, Comdr. Ryder is a very congenial, and his promotion to a higher post testifies to recognition of his high administrative ability.

Comdr. Ryder went to sea when still a boy. At fifteen he was a midshipman on HMS "Centurion," and served on the ship during the Battle of Jutland in the First World War. When war ended he spent a considerable period as a submarine officer, specialising in anti-submarine and electrical duties.

Mrs. Ryder was in London throughout the blitz and led quite an exciting life, for no less than two of the houses she was in were bombed and demolished when she was out. Sleeping in tube stations and floors of hotels was no unusual experience. Later she managed to put up with the wife of a naval officer in a safer area in South Wales.

Comdr. and Mrs. Ryder are leaving behind them a host of friends in the Colony who wish them the best of luck and success in the new phase of their activity and usefulness.

FOOD FIGURES

The average of the Food and Fuel figures for the four (4) weeks ending 29.3.47 is \$14.3203. The Rehabilitation Allowance for the month of April will therefore be the same as for the month of March namely—

Daily-paid Workers  
Aristians ..... \$3.20 per day  
Coolies ..... \$2.50  
Females ..... \$1.00  
Monthly-paid Workers  
Males ..... \$90.00 per month  
Females ..... \$4.60  
Costs for the week ending 29.3.47—

Rice & Flour ..... 7.2 cwt. \$6.2000  
Vegetable ..... 1.0 ..... 5.0000  
Salt Cabbage ..... 2 ..... 1.5000  
Oil ..... 7 ..... 1.8100  
Tea ..... 2 ..... .5000  
Salt Fish ..... 2 ..... .0400  
Pork ..... 2 ..... .7120  
Fuel ..... 10.5 ..... .8200  
Firewood ..... 10.5 ..... .6000  
Bean Curd, 14 pieces ..... 7.0000  
Total ..... \$14.3203

On the application of DSI Sykes, Lai Pak, 24, coolie and Wong Yek-tin, 30, unemployed, were committed for three days in Police custody by Mr. Blair-Kerr yesterday. Lai and Wong were charged with robbing while armed. Leung, a woman of a ladies' hairdressing shop at 241 Yee Street on Jan. 29, and with maliciously injuring the hands and arms of the hairdresser, was charged with unlawful possession of the handbag.

Accused was originally charged with aiding and abetting. Li Yuk between the hours of 10 p.m. on Feb. 21 and 10 a.m. on Feb. 22 in breaking into the Krishna Silk Store and removing therefrom goods and money to the total value of \$30,000, and (b) with receiving the stolen cheque for \$60. On his pleading guilty to the second count, the first charge was withdrawn by the Police Prosecutor.

REMANDED

On the application of DSI Sykes, Lai Pak, 24, coolie and Wong Yek-tin, 30, unemployed, were committed for three days in Police custody by Mr. Blair-Kerr yesterday. Lai and Wong were charged with robbing while armed. Leung, a woman of a ladies' hairdressing shop at 241 Yee Street on Jan. 29, and with maliciously injuring the hands and arms of the hairdresser, was charged with unlawful possession of the handbag.

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# CHINA ENTERTAINMENT ANNUAL MEETING

A net profit of \$393,948.76 for the year ending Dec. 31, 1946, was announced at the 13th annual meeting of China Entertainment & Land Investment Co. Ltd. (owners of King's Theatre and King's Theatre Building), held at the office of the company yesterday.

The Chairman of Directors, Sir Shouson Chow, who presided, informed shareholders that yesterday happened to be also the 16th anniversary of King's Theatre, and to celebrate the occasion the Board recommended a bonus to shareholders, directors and the staff. This motion was heartily approved by the meeting.

Sir Shouson Chow said in part:—

"I am very pleased to report that the net profit for the year, after providing for depreciation, and including the balance of \$16,108.07 brought forward from last year, amounts to \$393,948.76 which I think represents a fairly successful working year."

"During the Japanese occupation, it was not possible to keep up our overheads and maintenance of the theatre and equipment. After the liberation, the theatre was severely damaged by fire and it was therefore only quite recently that we were able to put this necessary work in hand. The theatre is now renovated and redecorated with necessary new equipment installed and all the equipment replaced, and I think I can say that King's Theatre today offers to its patrons seating, comfort, sound and projection which can be very favourably compared with cinemas in other theatres."

"During the past year the management have been careful in the selection of films which were chosen specially to suit the tastes of our patrons, both Chinese and foreign. Among our outstanding pictures of the year may be mentioned 'Henry V', 'Casar & Cleopatra' and 'The Beauty of the East', a spectacular musical comedy, setting an all-time record in Hong Kong for length of run in any theatre."

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12.30 p.m.—Daily Programme Summary.  
12.32 p.m.—The Melody Line.  
12.47 p.m.—Honey Goodman and His Orchestra.

1.00 p.m.—News, Weather Report and Announcements.  
1.10 p.m.—Orchestral Interlude.  
1.15 p.m.—D'Ermen's "The Hundred Kisses" London Philharmonic Orch.

1.30 p.m.—"From the Show"—Light Opera.  
2.00 p.m.—Chau Down.  
6.30 p.m.—Tones of Not-So-Long-Ago.  
7.00 p.m.—London Relay: World News.  
7.10 p.m.—London Relay: Home News from Britain.

7.15 p.m.—Dinah Shore and The Ink Spots.  
7.30 p.m.—Studio: George Loh at the Piano.  
7.50 p.m.—Mazzy Day and His Hungarian Gypsy Orchestra.  
8.00 p.m.—Yvonne Brubaker (Soprano) and George Thibault (Tenor) in a Light French Programme.

8.30 p.m.—Studio: Musical Forms—No. 2—The Concerto, A Talk by Father T. F. Ryan, S.J.  
9.00 p.m.—London Relay: News.  
9.10 p.m.—Light Variety.  
9.45 p.m.—Studio: "At Your Own Risk". A Programme for "April Fool's Day" Devoted and Produced by Donald Bull and Desmond Scott.

10.15 p.m.—Relay of the Dance Orchestra from the Ambassador Ballroom.  
11.00 p.m.—Close Down.

## "JANE"



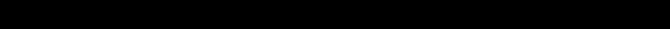
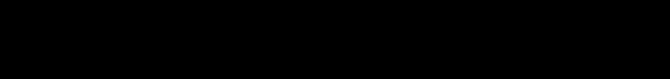
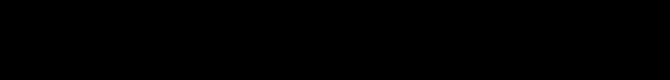
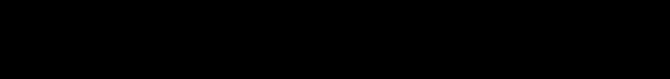
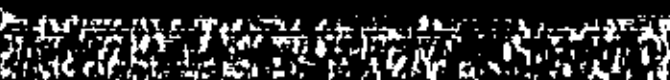
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## Out With It



## By EDGAR MARTIN







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Telephones: 24354  
Editors & General Office 32812

Subscription Rates:  
3 months ..... HK\$118.00  
6 months ..... HK\$230.00  
One year ..... HK\$472.00

## GERMAN PLIGHT

Three weeks of discussion at Moscow have brought the Foreign Ministers no nearer a solution of the problem of Germany's future than they were at the beginning. Meanwhile, increasing restlessness in the British Zone have led to open demonstrations and while they have been conducted without violence, there is no guarantee that the unrest will stop at hunger marches. There can, of course, be no remedy for Germany's ills until the unfortunate decisions reached on a diplomatic level at Potsdam have been removed in harmony with the realities of the German situation. It was not, of course, the conception of the Western Powers that Germany should be politically partitioned. They acquiesced in her being divided into zones for military occupation only. They were ready to let Russia have for this a lion's share of the German map, including such Western-minded regions as Thuringia and Saxony; and they consented still further to contract their own zones in order to provide a zone for France. But, economically and politically, Germany was to remain a single unit. As soon as practicable, a central German Government was to be set up. Meanwhile the occupying Powers were to regulate the country jointly, through a joint Control Council in Berlin. To do Russia justice she never pretended attachment to the idea of a condominium like this. She accepted it because the Western Powers insisted, but her own preference was for spheres of interest. And without delay she started converting her own zone into one. Politically she followed her usual technique of organising a strong Communist Party to be her agent. Economically she treated East Germany as it was West Russia. Its surplus grain, which had been the regular source of bread-supply for the industrialised Germans in what is now the British zone, went to feed Russians instead. She enforced against the Western Allies every part of the Potsdam policy which favoured her. Every part which favoured them she ignored. It is easy to blame her, but was a condominium ever practicable? Our eyes having gradually been opened, it is now Britain and America which want to have a free hand in their zones, and Russia which is harking back to the assertion of Germany's political unity. For the Party which she has built up in her own zone has reached a point at which she reckons that, given a unified Germany, she could use it to capture the country as a whole. That would carry her banners to the Rhine, and give her the mastery of Europe. Had the British and Americans managed their zones as they ought, there should have been no such risk. Western occupation started by being much more popular than Russian occupation, and it ought to have remained so. Why has it not, or why at any rate has not our own? There are many contributory explanations, but the main one is food. When the already low allowance of calories in the British zone dropped suddenly and remorselessly to a semi-starvation figure much below that in the other two chief zones, the bottom fell out of our prestige. The population was already tried to the utmost by lack of homes, clothes, fuel, cleansing and the barest comforts. Sheer daily hunger is the last straw. The actual reason why this occurred was first the withholding of the East German grain and then the non-arrival of American food ships, due mainly to the strikes in the United States. Great Britain strove to lessen the blow, drawing heavily on her island's own meagre reserves and imposing bread-rations upon her own people. But the Germans neither saw that, nor believed it. Most of them regarded the famine as evidence of a deliberate British desire to weaken and decimate their nation. The alternative was to deny us for our incompetence. These are still the verdicts, probably, of a majority of the dwellers in the British zone; and until we live them down we cannot hope to win sympathy. What, then, are we doing about it? In the main the right things. First, by the economic merger of the British and American zones we have laid the founda-

## WHITE AUSTRALIA FEELS OUT IN THE COLD

Canberra, Mar. 30. White Australia today is feeling lonely in an Asia world that no longer belongs to Europe. That sums up why her Foreign Minister, Dr. Herbert V. Evatt, is so anxious India shall remain in the British Commonwealth of Nations on the same independent footing as the other Dominions. Australia once believed without reservations that she belonged wholly to Europe. Today she is recognising rather forlornly that geographically at least she belongs to Asia. Her forlorn outlook comes of isolation from Europe in the sea of rising nationalism amongst nations formerly under European direction. That is why Australia is looking to India, promising aid to India in the development of its secondary industries and hoping in return for friendship and understanding. She has to live in years to come with other nations of the East—not with Europeans.

While on one hand she has to weigh her traditional friendships and comradeship in war with the Dutch, on the other hand she realises that the Dutch may not be in the Netherlands East Indies for ever, and that these teeming millions of native populations will mould the feelings of these islands, so wealthy and populous, towards their southern neighbours.

These are thoughts at the back of Dr. Evatt's mind in his approach to India and other Asiatic countries. As regards India, just about to obtain its complete independence of Great Britain, the link of membership of the British Commonwealth would in his view provide a stabilising bond between the two countries. Their economies are almost complementary. There is no need for clashes there. Australia wants what India can supply. Australia's expanded industry can give India what she wants. Australian technicians and industrial experiences can be used in building up Indian resources.

Friendship with India would permit Australia to face her future with the knowledge that she has in the area a co-partner with herself and New Zealand whose voice could not be ignored.

Dr. Evatt is working for official government to government talks with India. He gave notice of this desire in his recent speech on international affairs in the Australian Parliament.

Significantly, Jawaharlal Nehru, head of India's interim government, praised the speech, and Dr. Evatt is constantly in touch in Canberra with Sir Raghunath Paranjpye, the Indian High Commissioner.

At this stage of the proceedings there is an unofficial flavour about the negotiations. But presently, though quietly, negotiations are going on, always with the hope in the

By ALAN REID

mind of Australian officials that India will recognise the membership of the British Commonwealth of Nations give benefits otherwise denied. The "White Australia" policy is recognised by Australians as the stumbling block in the way of achieving complete harmony with India.

Possibly it is a feature of the Australian political setup that is known to the ordinary Indian, and Doctor Evatt's recent declaration that "Australia was probably completely to the policy probably does not help. But the Foreign Minister believes that even the hostility engendered by incorporating the policy as a permanent feature of Australian life, can be overcome.

Illustrative of the reaction of the Indian to the full explanation of the implications of the policy was the attitude of a well known Indian newspaper editor during a recent visit to Australia. He arrived in Australia bitterly hostile to the policy and denouncing it as a racial insult.

Then he learned that the words "White Australia" were not mentioned in any legislation and did not appear in any statute.

It was economic in basis, designed to protect Australian workers against the competition of cheap labour, not organised against unfair exploitation and with the tradition of co-operation as possessed by Australian workers.

## BARCLAY ON BRIDGE

By Shepard Barclay

"The Authority on Authorities"

## WATCH ALL DISCARDS

Regardless of whether you are the declarer or a defender, an important phase of good card playing consists of watching all discards and making the logical inferences from them. At either a suit or No Trump contract, if a long suit is being run by someone, on which you will have to discard, the discards of another player frequently form the sole guide for your own action. When you are a defender, your partner's lowest card from a particular suit usually tells you he is relinquishing protection there and wants you to retain yours, as he is guarding against some other suit or suits.

S. A. K. 7 5  
H. 10 4 2  
D. 10  
C. J. 10 8 3

S. Q. 6 3 N S. J. 8 2  
H. Q. 9 5 W E. K. 8 7  
D. K. 9 5 S C. 6 5 2  
C. 9 7

S. 10 9 4  
H. A. 8 3  
D. J. 8 4 3  
C. A. K. 4

(Dealer: South. Neither side vulnerable.)  
South West North East  
Pass Pass 1 C Pass  
1 D Pass 1 S Pass  
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass  
Odd bidding, with North starting it. Most players would

dations for food security. The Americans have driven a hard bargain; but the gain is real. Secondly, we have taken a stand at Moscow, supported by General Marshall, which should secure Russian approval, will make things generally much easier throughout Germany. But time is of the essence if the country's deterioration is to be checked and Gen. Marshall's efforts to pin the Russians down to action will undoubtedly be given Mr. Byrd's warmest support.

open South's hand, with either 1-Diamond or a short club bid, preferably the former. But the natural contract resulted anyway.

West led his heart Q. South ducking. The 5 to the K won the second trick and South then was in with his A. He saw the danger of getting set two or more if he ducked a spade trick or tried to set up the suit in the first three rounds, as either of those plans might cause the loss of four tricks in diamonds. So, playing safely for one down and hardly thinking of game any more, except through some defense mistake, he ran his five club tricks.

On the third club West tossed his spade 3, in order to keep his four diamonds and heart 7, but East wasn't looking. So on the fourth club East tossed the spade 2. Hoping that indicated the very kind of carelessness it did, South took his two top spades and was overjoyed to see both defenders follow. Two more spades then gave him contract plus an extra trick.

If East had noted that West's spade 3 was his lowest possible, East should have held his spades and tossed diamonds on the last two clubs. That would have made it impossible for South to take more than eight tricks.

## Tomorrow's Problem

S. A. 10 8  
H. A. K. 8 6  
D. A. 8 7 4 2  
C. Q

S. 6  
H. J. 4 3  
D. J. 4 3  
C. A. 6 5

S. J. 7 4 2  
H. Q. 7 2  
D. None  
C. K. J. 9 8 7

(Dealer: North. Neither side vulnerable.)  
If North starts with 1-Heart, South's 1-Diamond, what should be the rest of the bidding?

## CARNIVAL

By Dick Turner



## Macao Today Is An Expensive Hobby

Macao today is an expensive place from a visitor's point of view. Unlike Hong Kong there is now no acute accommodation problem, yet hotel prices are abnormal and higher than the European run hotels in Hong Kong which cater for a more varied clientele. Prices in Macao range upwards of 24 dollars a night for a single room, not including any meals or surcharge.

The first impression gained by any stranger arriving in Macao

from Hong Kong is concerned with the absence of vehicles, rickshaws and hawkers. It is a pleasure to ride through Hong Kong. Unlike the situation in our own Colony the people of Macao find no difficulty in walking on the pavements because no cabbies and hawkers stand bar their way. These exist in Macao only in small numbers and vendors are given to understand by the authorities that they must use the minimum space possible. European food, just as plentiful in Macao as here, is sold in a few of the main restaurants at charges which compare favourably with Hong Kong. Rice, however, which is in short supply in Macao, has bred a flourishing black market and an equally flourishing smuggling racket. Cinema rates are a little higher

than in Hong Kong but the film-goer there has more variety in the films shown as they are screened only one or two nights in succession.

## Quiet Reigns

A peaceful atmosphere pervades over the 200,000 population of Macao which is made up of 90 per cent Chinese. Under a competent Portuguese administration which revolves round a "no nonsense or interference basis," the Chinese element can only be described as "subtle" when compared with Hong Kong. Extreme courtesy among the Chinese lower class and workers towards the Macanese population is a refreshing change when one recalls the attitude towards the European section here of a larger portion of the Chinese working class, among whom can be included many Chinese who daily use the Hong Kong cross harbour ferries complete with a great deal of "vigour and unnecessary physical violence."

Nightlife in Macao revolves round the winchshop cafes and gambling establishments which are sanctioned by the authorities. Social evening life as it exists in Hong Kong has no medium in Macao. With the return of the war weather the mosquito pest is already present in quantity in Macao where it is now necessary to sleep with the protection of netting. The D. D. T. spraying which is carried out periodically by the P.A.E. in Hong Kong and Kowloon cannot be introduced by the Macanese because of the lack of aircraft.

## Police Policy

Interesting is the fact that Macao's lot of child pickpockets has been turned to a useful purpose by the police authorities. These children are taken off the street and allowed to live in the main police station compound where they help to work in the gardens and do light constructive jobs. In return they are fed from the vegetable and fruit produce which is grown in the police gardens. Also living in this compound, which has been made as picturesque as any section of a municipal park in England, by Macao police in their leisure hours, are 120 orphans. They are the small sons and daughters of Macao mothers who died during the war. Free food is also provided for them, mainly from the station grounds as well as clothing which is allotted through a Government grant. Three Catholic women teachers instruct them in daily lessons in a series of small huts erected behind the Police headquarters.

be an alliance with the Monarchists in order to create a stronger and broader front. Other Republicans deplore relationship with the Monarchists and contend that the monarchy must be kept out at all costs.

At yet, there is no trend that would mark the progress of the varied factions. However, the monarchists inside Spain have been increasingly active since the first of the year. Republican quarters claim they have made "more headway" than the Republicans. Nevertheless, they have not reached an agreement with Franco.

Until Franco has been convinced that a certain change is in order, a change is not regarded as "viable." Unless an anti-Franco faction attempts a forcible change in that event, the faction must muster enough force to meet that of the army and police under Franco's control. But with that away from Franco, the anti-Franco

## Franco Marks Time In Spain

Madrid, Mar. 30.

Informed political quarters said today that any Spanish political developments are likely to be delayed until the effects of the Moscow conference of foreign ministers have been analyzed by Franco and his Cabinet ministers.

They predict that any anti-Franco statements or recommendations arising from the conference will be seized on by Franco's propagandists as material for a new campaign reiterating charges of foreign interference in Spanish changes.

If the Big Four ministers ignore Spain, Franco will continue quietly to administer his nation's affairs without affecting any noticeable change.

Political quarters said that Franco has been contemplating a cabinet shuffle since the first of the year. They expected it to occur by the end of February. Since nothing has happened yet, they presume that Franco will postpone action in order to obviate any possible interpretation that he is being influenced by "Big Four" decisions.

It was recalled that a similar shakeup was predicted a year ago. Nothing happened.

There are two spheres of Spanish political activities. One involves the day to day livelihood of the Franco regime. The other involves the scattered forces which are seeking a basic change which would mean the substitution of a new regime for the Franco government.

The first sphere revolves about such developments as cabinet changes and the application of new policies. They are designed to improve Spain's

international and domestic position without effecting the central administration, the military dictatorship. They are attached closely, though, to see if they signify a new orientation or a trend toward evolution.

The second sphere embraces the complexity of factions inside and outside Spain, working for the removal of the Franco government in favour of something else. That "something else" is the factor which has kept the anti-Franco factions generally disunited.

The two principal groups are the Monarchists and Republicans. A third important group favours a provisional or "caretaker" administration until a legal institution may be chosen through a plebiscite.

There is considerable interplay. The main faction of Monarchists is that favouring the restoration of the throne with Pretender Don Juan reigning as King Juan III. Another branch of Monarchists are advocating the restoration of the Carlist line. Some Monarchists favour a constitutional monarchy, while others are backing an absolute monarchy.

The Republicans are equally divided. The exile Republicans have three separated groups jockeying for position—the so-called "government-in-exile," the "Negro Socialists" and the "Prieto Socialists." In addition to them, there are the Republicans factious within Spain who advocate the re-establishment of a republic without the participation of exile Republicans. Some of the Socialist Republicans believe that there should



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**THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB****NOTICE TO MEMBERS****EASTER RACE MEETING****Saturday 5th and Monday 7th April, 1947.**The First Bell will be rung at 1.30 p.m. and the first race will  
be run at 2.00 p.m. each day.Through numbers (10 Races—\$32) may be obtained at the Office  
of the Treasurers, 1st Floor Exchange Building, also tickets for the  
Special Cash Sweep (\$200) on the last race on the second day,  
7th April.**MEMBERS' BADGES AND ENCLOSURE.**Members are reminded that they and their ladies MUST wear  
their badges prominently displayed throughout the Meeting.  
NO ONE WITHOUT A BADGE WILL BE ADMITTED TO  
THE MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE.Badges admitting non-members to the Members' Enclosure and  
Club Rooms at \$10 each day including tax are obtainable through  
the Secretary on the written or personal introduction of a Member,  
such Member to be responsible for all chits, etc.  
Badges admitting to Members' Enclosure will NOT be on sale  
at the RACE COURSE.The Treasurers' Comptroller Office will close each day at 11  
a.m. and the Secretary's Office at 11.45 a.m. Both Offices at 1st  
floor, Exchange Building.A limited number of tickets will be obtainable at the Club  
House, provided they are ordered in advance from the No. 1 Boy  
(Tel. 27818).NO CHILDREN WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE CLUB'S  
PREMISES DURING THE MEETING.**PUBLIC ENCLOSURE.**The price of admission to the Public Enclosure is \$3 each day  
including tax for all persons including ladies, and is payable at the  
Gate.Bookmakers, Tipsters, etc., will not be permitted to operate  
within the precincts of The Hong Kong Jockey Club during the  
Race Meeting.Refreshments will be obtainable in the Restaurant in the Public  
Enclosure.**SERVANTS' PASSES.**Passes for Servants will be issued to Private Box holders  
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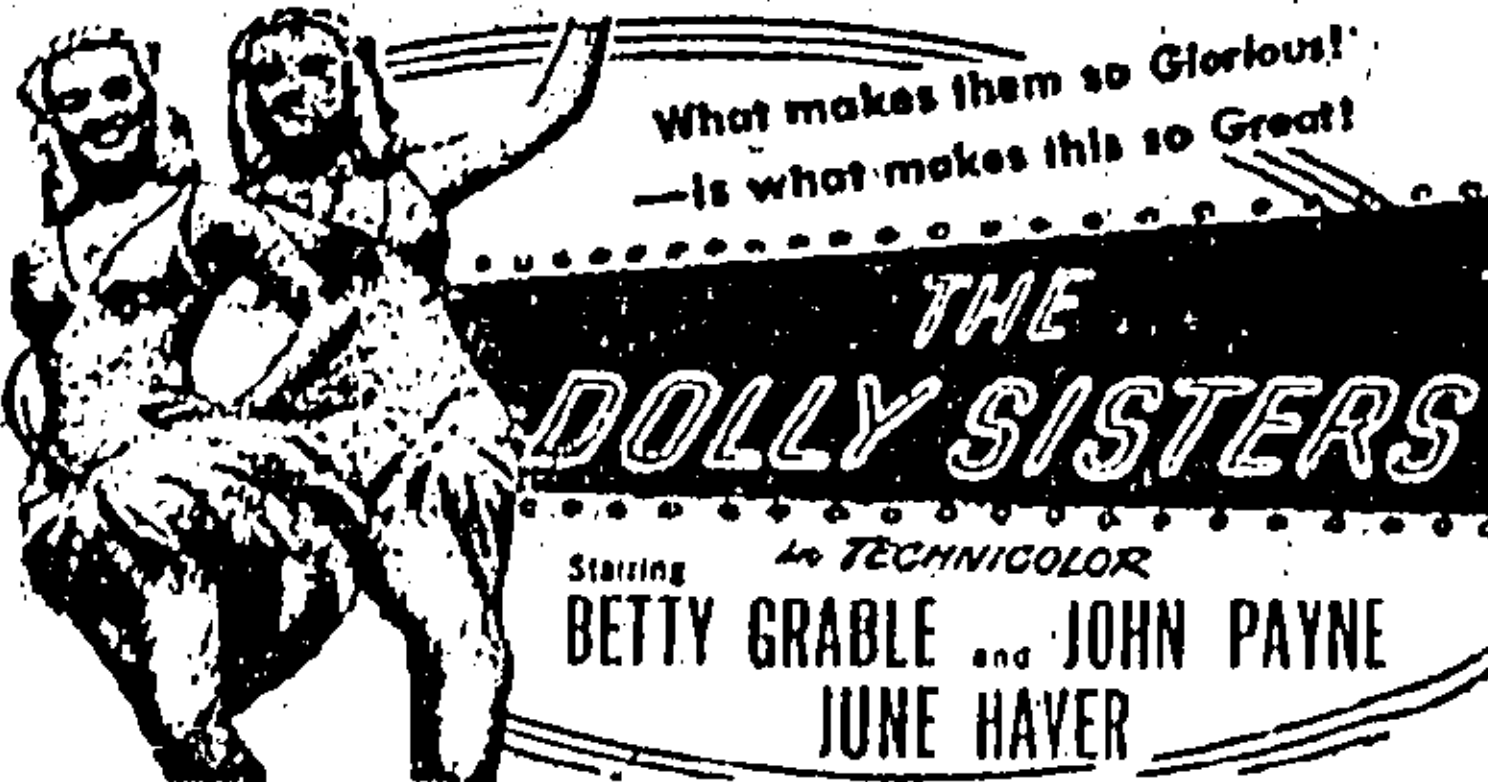
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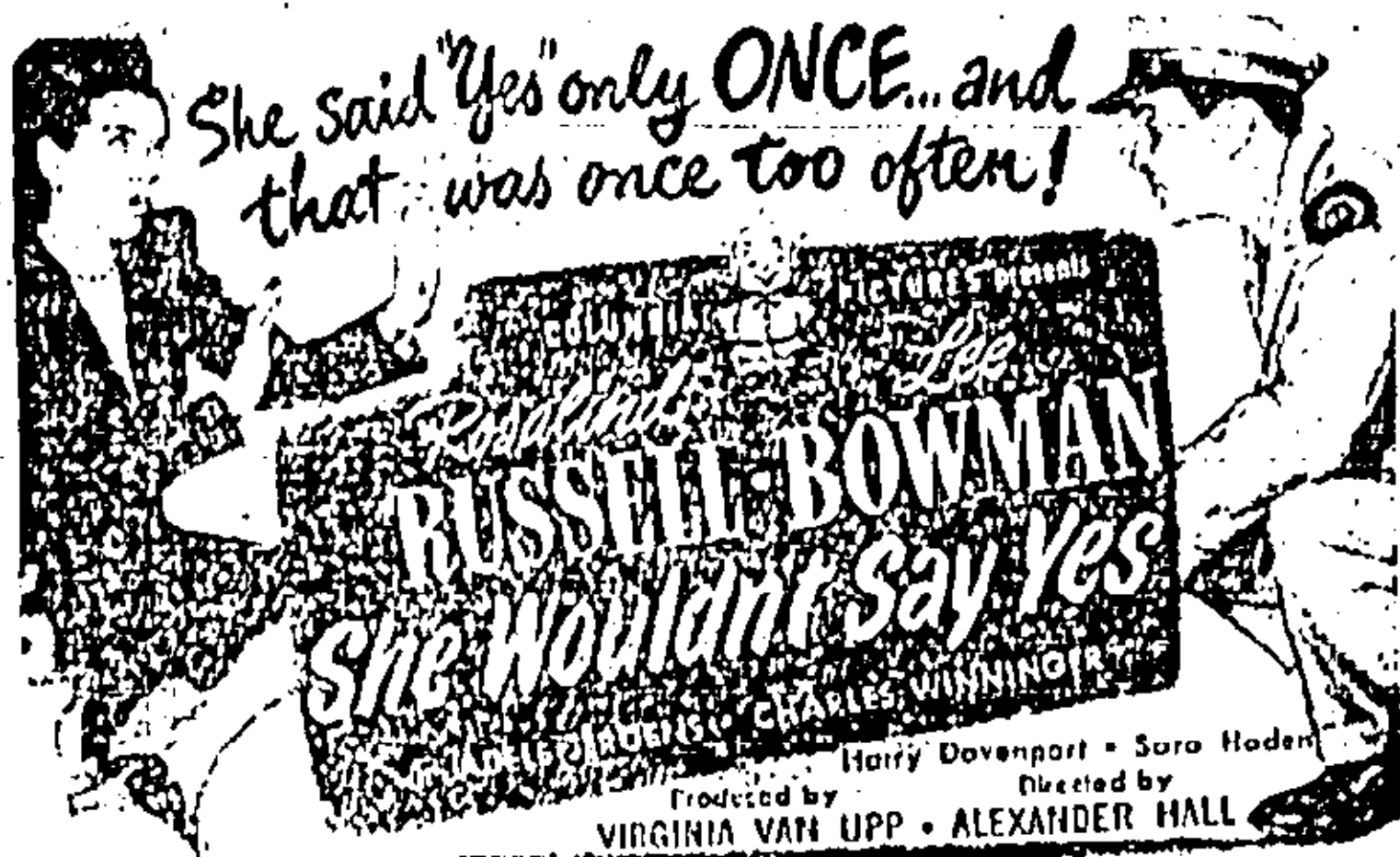
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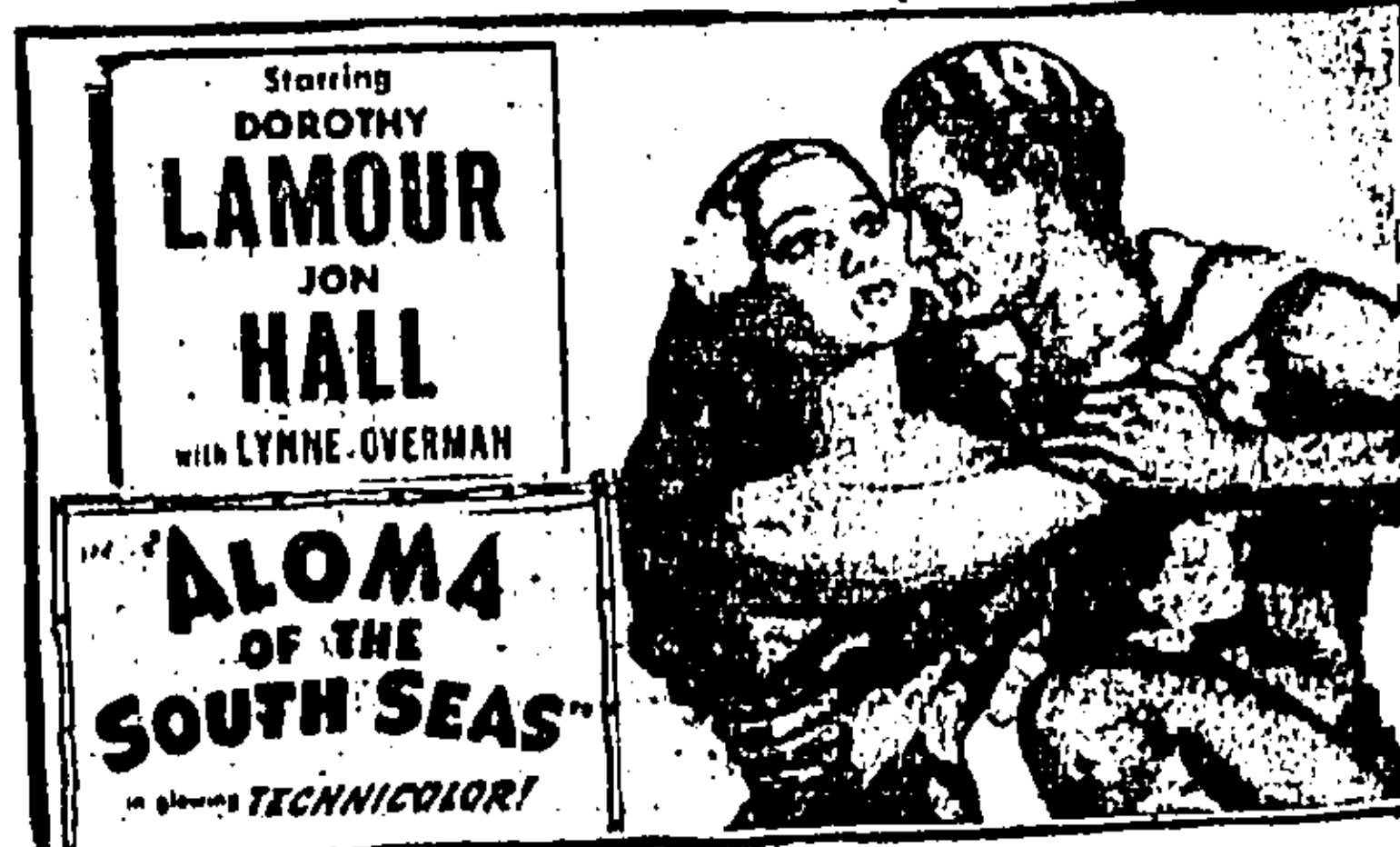
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"A HAUNTING WE WILL GO"

## HITLER'S MEDICAL RECORD, BY HIMMLER'S DOCTOR

London, Mar. 30.  
Dr. Felix Kirsten, Finnish psychotherapist and Heinrich Himmler's wartime medical adviser, said today that Adolf Hitler's official medical history showed the Fuehrer was sexually impotent but derived sexual satisfaction from making speeches before big crowds.

Kirsten wrote in the "Sunday Express" that Himmler showed him Hitler's 26-page medical history during the war. Kirsten said categorically that Hitler was not homosexual. He said Himmler told him Hitler's friendship with Eva Braun was "simply platonic." "Eva Braun, said Himmler, was a pathetic creature, sexually starved," Kirsten wrote. "Himmler also disclosed Hitler had an unrequited hatred of horses. He wanted to have every horse he saw shot."

Kirsten said the medical report showed that Hitler early in 1942 was diagnosed as suffering from progressive paralysis.

### Gold Coffin

"For months Hitler had been able to work, thanks to hypodermic injections given him daily; injections apparently of almost everything and anything save morphine, which he held in horror."

to 300,000 people. There will be a Hall of Fame containing the busts of all Hitler's faithful collaborators." — United Press.

### GOLD SEIZED

Milan, Mar. 30.  
Italian customs officials at the Italo-Swiss frontier post of Isello confiscated 38 kilograms of gold ingots from a car driven by a man holding a Swiss passport who tried to enter Italian territory. Some of the gold bars were hallmarked with the hammer and sickle and others with what was believed to be the Bank of England mark. They were under the upholstery of the car. — Reuter.

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## MIRACULOUS OPERATION

Birmingham, Mar. 30.  
A young factory worker who had four fingers of his right hand cut off in a guillotine, has had a whole finger from his left hand grafted on to the right, making the hand useful again.

The Mayor of Birmingham said tonight that the grafting operation was performed by a skillful surgeon at the Birmingham accident hospital and rehabilitation centre, which carries out pioneer research work. — Reuter.

## Blondes Are Hairier

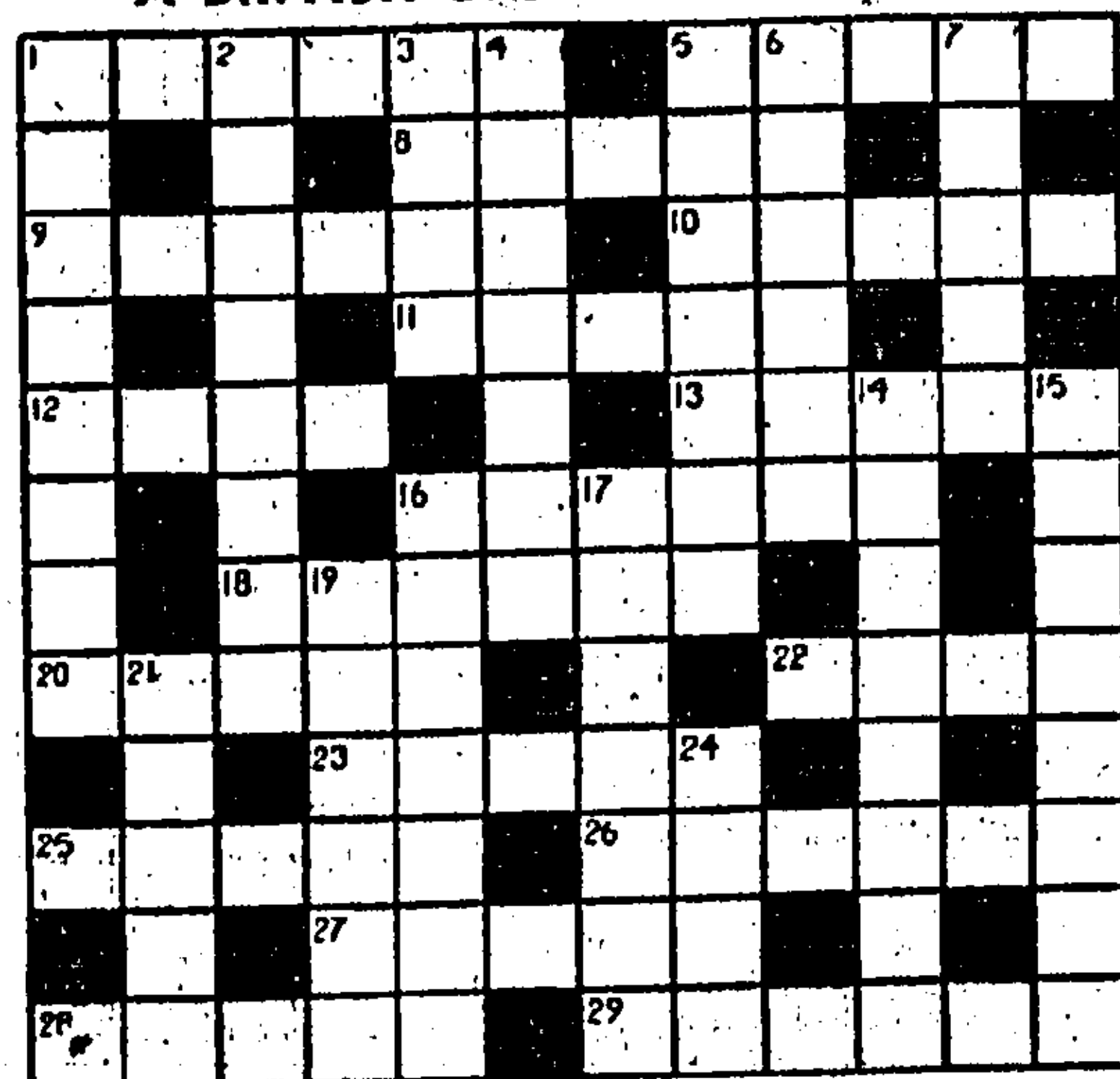
Chicago, Mar. 30.  
Blondes have more hairs on their heads than brunettes, redheads or brownettes, according to Samuel Grant, director of the Helene Curtis laboratories. He said some blondes have as many as 140,000 hairs on their skulls, brunettes and brownettes an average of 120,000 and red-heads only 90,000. On the average, he said, one square inch of scalp contains about 1,000 hairs. — United Press.

## Mexico To Have Silver Coinage

Mexico City, Mar. 30.  
Carlos Navon, director of the Bank of Mexico, said over 100,000,000 paper pesos will be withdrawn from circulation in Mexico and replaced by silver coins which, he said, would conserve 25,000,000 ounces of silver thus aiding the Mexican mining industry and improving the world silver price by diverting part of Mexican silver from industrial purposes.

He said it has not been decided what the total issue of the new peso and five peso coins will be since there is likely to be a large demand for savings and export purposes. Treasury officials said the new coins will be most valuable throughout the world judging by the relation of their real value to nominal value. The peso piece will contain 53% centavos worth of silver in contrast to the U.S. dollar which contains 50 cents worth of silver. The new five peso piece, whose exchange value will be about \$1.00, will contain 83 U.S. cents worth of silver. The silver dollar contains 22 grams of silver while the five peso piece will contain 30 grams. — United Press.

## A BRITISH CROSS WORD PUZZLE



### Clues Across

1. Nun.
5. Battle.
8. Small boat.
9. Disclose.
10. Loosen.
11. Utter suddenly.
12. Young female.
13. Church pews.
16. Small head.
18. Whistband.
20. Subject for discussion.
22. Engrave.
23. Boy's name.
25. Men's family.
26. Outside men.
27. Scores.
28. Bury.
29. Legally.
30. Closed.

### Clues Down

1. Overbearing.
2. Drink.
3. Exercise.
4. Made a sort of.
5. Bravery.
6. Pulse made into soup.
7. Eddy.
8. Watchman.
9. Type of farmer.
10. Asserts.
11. Lay upon.
12. Long-legged bird.
14. Get up.
15. Showed keenness.
16. Type of farmer.
17. Asserts.
18. Lay upon.
19. Long-legged bird.
20. Get up.
21. Watchman.
22. Type of farmer.
23. Asserts.
24. Lay upon.
25. Long-legged bird.
26. Get up.
27. Watchman.

### Yesterday's Crossword

ACROSS:—1. Remite; 5. Corks; 8. Inch; 9. Ragged; 11. Easel; 12. Induce; 14. Free; 16. Earls; 18. Atoll; 19. Edge; 20. Sordid; 24.

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### MANILA

SS "General Meigs"	April	7
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SS "LAKEWOOD VICTORY"	May 9	Via Yokohama

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## HONG KONG'S TRADE PROSPECTS Chairman Of Chartered Bank On Future

### Moratorium Must Be Lifted

Until trade in all the major countries in the Far East again reaches pre-war dimensions, it is too much to expect that last year's Hong Kong trade figures can be maintained, said Mr. V. A. Grantham, chairman, at the annual meeting of shareholders of The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, held in London yesterday.

In the course of his statement, Mr. Grantham revealed an increase in current and other accounts during the year in excess of £22,840,000.

Profit for the year amounted to £378,042, but had accounts been made up as in the past, this profit figure would have been shown as £425,382, or an increase on last year of £99,618.

In his review of conditions in the countries in which the Bank's interests lie, the Chairman said:

India has enjoyed yet another year of almost unprecedented prosperity and economic progress. There has been great activity in the Share Markets and scarcely a week has passed without a number of new Companies being floated. Indian Banking and Insurance interests, alive to the need for keeping pace with the new industries everywhere springing up and the extension of old industries, are participating to the full in the new business offering, as the figures in their recent Balance Sheet confirm of this phase of the country well upon the road to that industrialisation which has been so frequently discussed and upon which the hopes of the various communities for an improvement in the general standards of living are based.

#### Facing Recession

But a number of factors appear to indicate that India now faces a recession from the high levels of prosperity touched during 1946, and time alone will prove the soundness of all the new ventures. It is to be hoped that in this intense programme of industrialisation the overwhelming need for improvement in methods of agriculture, which is, after all, the life-blood of the country, will not be overlooked. Production in practically all industries, as a result mostly of recent political disorders, has fallen from wartime peaks, and in some cases is below even pre-war levels, while supplies in many cases have been insufficient to meet continued inordinate demand. India's food position also continues to give cause for uneasiness, for the rice crops of Madras, Bombay and the Central Provinces, are all reported to have suffered through excessive rainfall. Only in Bengal is the rice crop considered satisfactory. Wheat crops too, are likely to be less than normal on account of restricted sowings due to absence of timely rains. Large imports of both rice and wheat will be required, and although it is hoped that these will be forthcoming, reduced rations everywhere may prove to be inevitable during the next few months.

#### Ceylon

Of course, current events must be considered in the light of the Prime Minister's recent statement of policy. Certainly, the Indian side of our own business is based on a continuation of the goodwill of our customers, and however much the Prime Minister's statement may be open to criticism, it should surely set at rest any lingering doubts and suspicions concerning Britain's good faith in the matter of the transfer of power into responsible Indian hands.

In Ceylon, the year was a momentous one in the island's history, for in May last, the country was granted a new Constitution and reached the threshold of Dominion Status. Last year's trade figures drew attention to the fact that the increase of 20.11% in the value of exports during the year was largely due to the increase in the value of rubber exports, which rose from £1,100,000 in 1945 to £1,300,000 in 1946.

circulation was no more than Rs. 2.5 millions higher. During the year under review, the Note Circulation fell by Rs. 53.6 millions and Rs. 44.8 millions respectively, whereas Bank deposits showed little final change at the end of the year. In this fashion, stability was maintained, but as the cost of living index rose slightly during the year, it is reasonable to draw the conclusion that Ceylon suffered from scarcity of most of the items included in the index figure.

#### Rubber Market

While, therefore, stability was maintained, a recession from the prosperous position enjoyed during the war period seems inevitable, and the doubts, to which I gave expression last year, regarding the ability of Ceylon to compete in the Rubber, Tea and Copra markets of the world, when these products were again subject to competition and supplies became augmented from areas which had been under Japanese occupation, appear to find confirmation, at least in so far as Rubber is concerned, in the action of the Ceylon Government, which after the British Government ceased buying at its 1 per lb. in October last, has supported the local market on a basis above the world price. As Ceylon, now that Malaysia is again producing large quantities of rubber, is far from being the dominant factor among the world's rubber producers which she was during the War, this policy, while doubtless supportable as long as the demands for Ceylon's other products, such as tea, remain insistent, must carry its own consequences if and when these products again become subject to normal competition.

In Burma, much has been achieved since I addressed you last year, and exports of rice are again an important factor in the lives of the people in many adjacent countries, including India and Malaya. All that has been accomplished in this direction has been due to the efforts of the Burma Government working through the Agricultural Projects Board, to whom great credit is due. But any return to normality is being greatly hampered by labour troubles and wide-spread drought.

#### Malaya

In describing the position in Malaya last year, I find that my estimate that recovery in the production of rubber to pre-war levels would take at least two years, was over-optimistic, for already in December last production had all but reached pre-war proportions. On the other hand, production of tin in Malaya has fallen far short of even the lowest estimates then current. Actual production for 1946 is placed at 8,402 tons, and no great improvement in production is regarded as possible in the near future.

The position in Siam leaves a good deal to be desired. During the period when the country was under Japanese influence, the Currency became subject to considerable inflation, and on the recently into world markets, the parity of the Baht (or Baht) was reduced from the pre-war level of 1s. 10d. to 6d. Even so, difficulties experienced in enforcing adequate measures which had been devised to control imports and exports, militated against the restoration of the country to the level of a normal economy. The Government has been unable to control the export of goods, and the result has been a constant drain on the country's resources.

the supreme importance to the neighbouring Malayan Union of an increase in supplies of rice, it is perhaps permissible to ask whether all available means, including, possibly, a further increase in price, have been adopted to ensure the greatest possible deliveries of rice in the present season and an extension of planting to augment supplies in the future.

#### Philippines

Conditions in the Philippines, where our three branches at Manila, Cebu and Iloilo are now working normally, have been dominated by the necessity for imports on a large scale, not only for reconstruction and rehabilitation, but to fill the void following the period of Japanese occupation. Exact statistics are not yet available, but imports for 1946, estimated to have totalled upwards of some P.600 millions, against a pre-war figure of about P.250 millions, and as rehabilitation on any widespread scale has as yet made little headway, it is to be expected that imports must continue at a high level for some time to come. Exports for 1946 are placed no higher than about P. 140 millions, and consisted almost entirely of Copra and Abaca (Manila hemp), the export of Copra, due to the high prices ruling, having reached a record figure for the second half of the year. No export of Sugar, in pre-war days the most important of Philippine products, can be expected for a few years, possibly not until 1950, and the Gold Mining industry has yet to commence operations.

#### Hong Kong

Recovery in Hong Kong has been rapid, although, as in many other centres in the Far East, long-term rehabilitation and reconstruction has perforce had to be relegated to the background in the greater urgency of current needs. The trade figures for 1946, with imports of £553,716,721, (£59,607,295) and exports of £322,750,350 (£51,421,897), against £699,523,149 (£37,470,197) and £508,788,829 (£38,049,302) respectively for 1939, show remarkable expansion, but the grave deterioration in China's financial and industrial position resulting in a drastic curtailment of her foreign trade, much of which normally passes through Hong Kong, cannot but adversely affect the future trade of the Colony. On the other hand, trade is increasing between adjacent countries, including Malaya, Siam, India, China and the Philippines, for much of such trade Hong Kong is a natural entrepot; but until trade in all the major countries in the Far East again reaches pre-war dimensions, it is too much to expect that last year's Hong Kong trade figures can be maintained, and no doubt the Authorities will be directing their attention to increasing the scope and extent of local industries as a means of setting the expected recession in trade.

#### Urgent Problems

Hong Kong, however, faces other and equally difficult and urgent problems. Lacking adequate sources of revenue, and facing heavy expenditure, both on account of reconstruction and for social services, education and public health on the one hand, and a rapidly increasing population, on the other, the Colony is faced with a number of problems which must be solved if it is to maintain its position as a free port and a centre of trade and commerce.

## Hawker Arrested In V.A.D. Quarters

"This time I won't be so lenient with you. You will go to prison for nine months' hard labour," remarked Mr. Sheldon, K.C., at Central, yesterday when sentencing Chan So, 25, hawker, for being found at "Alberose," Pokfulam Road, on March 26 for an unlawful purpose.

Chan had a previous conviction for a similar offence for which he was bound over. Chan was discharged on a charge of receiving stolen property—some naval clothing—belonging to Petty Officer Russell W. Jaxier, of the Naval Staff Quarters, Queen Mary Hospital.

According to DSI Moore, Nurse Kathleen J.S. Kegan, of V.A.D., who was on the first floor of the quarters at "Alberose" at 1.30 p.m. on March 26, saw two men, including defendant, approaching the house along the drive.

She became suspicious and watched them walk along the side of the house and round the corner to the main door, after which she lost the sight of them. She went to the stairs and, half way down, could see the passage just inside the door. There she saw defendant (ip-toeing along the passage.

She went out through the back door with the No. 2 Boy and saw the other man coming out of the main door. The man was left off, but the No. 1 Boy arrested defendant and handed him over to a R.N.Y. policeman.

When arrested defendant was wearing clothing reported by P.O. Baxter to have been stolen between March 14 and 18 from his quarters—half way between Queen Mary Hospital and the V.A.D. Quarters at "Alberose." Defendant told the Magistrate that he went to look for a friend and that the clothing he was wearing he bought from a hawker in the Central District at \$25.

## RAF CHAPLAINS LEAVE

The Chaplain-in-Chief R.A.F. Air Vice-Marshal the Rev. J.A. Jagoe, CBE, KHC, DD, with the Assistant Chaplain-in-Chief Air Command Far East, Group Captain the Rev. Leslie Wright, and Dr. Jagoe's staff chaplain, Squadron-Leader the Rev. John Dagg, left Hong Kong yesterday morning by R.A.F. "Dakota."

The next stage of the Chaplain-in-Chief's tour of the Far East is Singapore, where he will visit personnel and confer with RAF cadres at RAF establishments throughout the Colony.

able success is to be achieved, all sections of the people in each country must play their part by increasing output and averting strikes and labour agitations, so prevalent in many of the areas at present. Even so, measures will have to be adopted which will entail sacrifices upon the part of all concerned. It would be quite out of place, however, in view of the multitude of interests involved everywhere, for me to make any suggestions regarding such matters; but an initial step on the part of the Authorities in Malaya and Hong Kong, in respect of which I feel this Bank can speak without danger, of being misunderstood, must surely be to clear away the uncertainties concealed by the continued existence of the moratorium, which should be lifted, and to clarify the position in respect of operations during the occupation period in Japanese occupation currencies.

I have endeavoured in my statement to make clear to the Stockholders that, although our business has so greatly expanded, there are, in the various countries in which the Bank operates, currents of unrest and problems of real difficulty still to be faced, whether it be in the political or the economic sphere. These problems, although in some cases of long-standing, have been brought to a head by the war. None of these difficulties are insuperable, but they do require the greatest degree of co-operation amongst the Nations involved, and a long continuation of mutual confidence. We, for our part, have to adjust our thoughts and methods to keep abreast of the times, and I am confident that our staff is proving equal to the occasion. We are all surrounded by the spirit of every sort and kind, but we have very cordially acknowledged the fact that the Bank is a part of the world, and we are all working for the benefit of the world.

The Moratorium

What means the moratorium? It means that the Bank is not allowed to operate in the various countries in which it has branches, and that it is not allowed to accept deposits or to issue cheques or to do any other banking business. This is a very serious situation, and it is one which the Bank is not in a position to deal with. The Bank is a part of the world, and it is a part of the world which is suffering from the effects of the war. The Bank is a part of the world which is suffering from the effects of the war, and it is a part of the world which is suffering from the effects of the war.

## Exhibition Tennis

An interesting series of exhibition tennis matches among leading tennis players of the Colony has been arranged by the tennis committee of the Hong Kong Cricket Club for the latter part of April and the whole of May.

Two games will be played every Monday and Thursday in the exhibition, which will consist of Mixed Doubles, Men's Doubles and Singles matches.

In order to ensure two games on each date arranged, a reserve match has also been arranged. The following is the programme:—

April 14:—Miss Zinovieff & Fay v. Mrs. Laderriere & Pagh. Taul Brothers v. Yip Koon Hoong & Paul Kong. Reserves:—Segalen Brothers v. Kotewall & George Lin. April 17:—Mrs. Andrews & Y. Taul v. Mrs. Young & Kenneth Lo. Jones & Zimmern v. Lee Wai Tong & Szeto. Reserves:—M. W. Lo & Ho Ka Lau v. Eric Lee & Maanman Ma. April 21:—Miss Zinovieff & Paul Kong v. Mrs. Litton & Yip Koon Hoong. Taul Yui Pui & Lee Wai Tong v. M. Pagh & B. C. Fay. Reserves:—R. Liang & George Lin v. G. Choa & Lau King. April 24:—Mrs. Andrews & R. Liang v. Mrs. Thomson & Taul Wai Pui. Eric Lee v. George Lin. Reserves:—Zimmern v. Szeto. April 28:—Miss Zinovieff & Jones v. Mrs. Young & Yip Koon Hoong. Au Kam Moon v. F. H. Kwok. Reserves:—Eric Lee v. T. F. Choy. May 1:—L. C. Kotewall & G. Choa v. Au Kam Moon & Wong Sui Ki. Miss Zinovieff & Mrs. Andrews v. Mrs. Litton & Mrs. Thomson. Reserves:—T. P. Fan v. R. Segalen. May 5:—Mrs. Laderriere & Pagh v. Mrs. Young & Taul Wai Pui. H. D. Ramjahn & Jones v. R. & Y. Segalen. Reserves:—Lau King & Maanman Ma v. F. H. Kwok & Ho Ka Lau. May 8:—Eric Lee & T. P. Fan v. Au Kam Moon & Wong Sui Ki. Roch Liang v. George Lin. Reserves:—Lee Wai Tong v. George Choa. May 12:—Mrs. Chiu & Taul Wai Pui v. Mrs. Thomson & Taul Yui Pui. Lau King v. Maanman Ma. Reserves:—Kenneth Lo v. T. F. Choy. May 15:—Kotewall & H. D. Ramjahn v. R. & Y. Segalen. Paul Kong v. T. P. Fan. Reserves:—Mrs. Laderriere & Zimmern v. Mrs. Andrews & Jones. May 19:—Mrs. Litton & Yip Koon Hoong v. Mrs. Thomson & Jones. Au Kam Moon v. F. Zimmern. Reserves:—Wong Sui Ki v. Lee Wai Tong. May 22:—Mrs. Laderriere & Fay v. Mrs. Andrews & G. Lin. Ho Ka Lau v. T. F. Choy. Reserves:—Roch Liang v. Lau King. May 26:—Mrs. Thomson & Ramjahn v. Mrs. Litton & M. W. Lo. Lee Wai Tong & Szeto v. Kotewall & George Choa. Reserves:—B. C. Fay v. F. H. Kwok. May 29:—Yip Koon Hoong & Taul Yui Pui v. Paul Kong & Taul Wai Pui. Mrs. Chiu & Pagh v. Mrs. Young & Fay. Reserves:—Kenneth Lo v. Y. Segalen. All Reserves are asked to be ready to play at 5 p.m. each day and not to leave the Stand Court until Match No. 2 is already underway. All Players are asked to secure substitutes of strength equal to themselves if unable to play at last moment. If Exhibition Matches are postponed they will be staged on the first playing day after the postponement—in other words the Exhibitions will only be postponed from day to day. It is intended to adhere strictly to this Programme and a very sincere apology of good Tennis is in store for all players and lovers of this game.

## Cannes Tennis

Cannes, Mar. 31. Pauline Betts of Los Angeles advanced to the final round of the Pauline Betts Memorial Tennis Tournament with a 6-0, 6-2 victory over Alice Walmsley of Luxembourg.

The American champion's opponent in the final today (Monday) will be the Swedish player, defeated by Walmsley, 6-7, 5-6.

## LABOUR REBELS GET A SCOLDING

London, Mar. 30. Some 75 Labour Members of Parliament will be scolded at a special and strictly private meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party tomorrow morning because they had signed the amendment asking Parliament to reject the bill to impose peacetime conscription. It will be pointed out to them that the international situation generally, Britain's many commitments abroad and the desirability of spreading the burden fairly over all sections of the community make compulsory service for all young men, except miners, the only solution.

"The rebels" will reply that men are needed more urgently in industry than in the forces, that the cost of the services is far too high, that it has always been the Labour Party policy to oppose peacetime conscription, that in any case it should not be adopted until the forces have been made more democratic and that some Labour members are emphatically against it on religious and conscientious grounds.

At the end of the private meeting, the "rebels" will be asked to respect the Government decision and not to vote against the conscription bill. They will be at liberty to abstain from voting and it is probable that a good many will do so and only a minority, who feel particularly strongly about the matter, will go into the Lobby against the Government.

#### Tory Support

Disciplinary action is not likely to be taken against them for doing so though it may be threatened. The Liberals will oppose the bill on constitutional and economic grounds.

A two-day debate on the bill will begin tomorrow and end on Tuesday night. When the vote is taken, the Conservatives will join the Government in support of the bill, because they feel that Britain's obligations make it imperative. The Opposition leader, Mr. Winston Churchill, will be the principal speaker. He will have a lot to say about limiting the size of the services so that men will not be wasting time when they could be aiding industrial recovery.

Mr. George Isaacs, Minister of Labour, and Mr. A. V. Alexander, Minister of Defence, will speak for the Government and Mr. Clement Davies for the Liberals.—Reuter.

## Tsui Loses Semi-Final

On the stand court yesterday, Ip Koon-hong beat Tsui Wai-pui in the Semi-final of the Open Singles Tennis Championship by 6-4, 6-4 and 6-1 before a large crowd.

It was always in the lead and in the first two sets led at one time by 5 games to 1. Tsui's service was very weak and he lost many valuable points through this.

In the quarter-finals Tsui Yan-pui was fully extended by Choa who won the first set and forced Tsui to the 12th game before he lost. Tsui was staidier in the last set and won easily.

The following were yesterday's results:— In Koon-hong beat Tsui Wai-pui 6-4, 6-4, 6-1. Taul Yan-pui beat G. Choa 3-6, 7-5, 6-1. Lam Kwan and Wong Hok (4), beat Lau King and M. Ma (4), 6-1.

#### Today's Programme

Lam Kwan and Wong Hok Nan v. Taul Yan-pui and Taul Wai-pui. (Stand Court). Yip Koon Hoong and Paul Kong v. George Lin and Roch Liang.

#### MIELS' NEXT

London, Mar. 31. Freddie Mills, British light heavyweight boxing champion, left London Sunday by plane for Johannesburg, where he will fight Johnny Ralph of South Africa on April 14.

He plans to return soon afterwards for a proposed match with Lloyd Marshall of America in London.—Associated Press.

## Meeting Of British Legion

At a preliminary meeting held in the Volunteers' canteen, Garden Road, yesterday evening a working committee was formed of the Hong Kong & China branch of the British Legion to draw up plans for what, it is hoped, will be the first real meeting since the War, on April 21.

Mr. E. J. R. Mitchell took the chair, and commented on the sparse attendance. This, he said, could well be attributed to the fact that many ex-Servicemen, especially those of the Second Great War, did not know much about the British Legion or what its functions were.

Primarily, he pointed out, it aims at assisting the ex-Servicemen in time of need, financially or otherwise. That need may not exist at the moment, but few ex-Servicemen today would be prepared to say that they faced the future with an absolutely untroubled eye.

The second main function is the organization of Poppy Day in the Colony last year brought special praise from the parent organisation, Mr. Mitchell said, for it realized the magnificent sum of 4,000. It is hoped that 1947 for the first time since 1939, real silk poppies from Home will be available for sale in the Colony.

The third function is a social one aimed at keeping ex-Servicemen in touch with each other. This fell into semi-obscure shortly before World War II but providing the response and support expected is forthcoming, it is hoped to revive this side of the Legion's activities in the Colony. All ex-Servicemen and ex-Servicewomen of both World Wars are eligible for membership in the Legion. Supporting Mr. Mitchell in the chair yesterday were Messrs. C. Baker, T. Franklin and L. O. Davis.

## American Humorist In H.K.

One of America's leading humorists, Mr. S. J. Perelman, is in the Colony on a short visit, accompanied by Mr. Al Herschfield, the "New York Times" caricaturist.

The two are collaborating on a travel book with the tentative title "Around the World in 80 Clashes" and are taking Macau into their itinerary.

Mr. Perelman is a well-known name to the many readers of the "New Yorker" and is the author of one of the best-selling "Crusy" as a Fox, which established him in the front rank of American humorists.

His latest work, published last year, is a collection of humorous essays against the background of Hollywood and the American advertising and newspaper world, under the title "Keep It Clean." Most of these essays appeared originally in the "New Yorker" between 1948 and 1949.

Mr. Perelman is a well-known name also in musical comedy. He collaborated with Ogden Nash in the musical piece "One Touch of Venus" which was a Broadway hit and introduced to musical comedy the "Crusy" song. Mrs. Martin with her new family "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" and "The Band Wagon" are some of the musicals in which he has collaborated.